

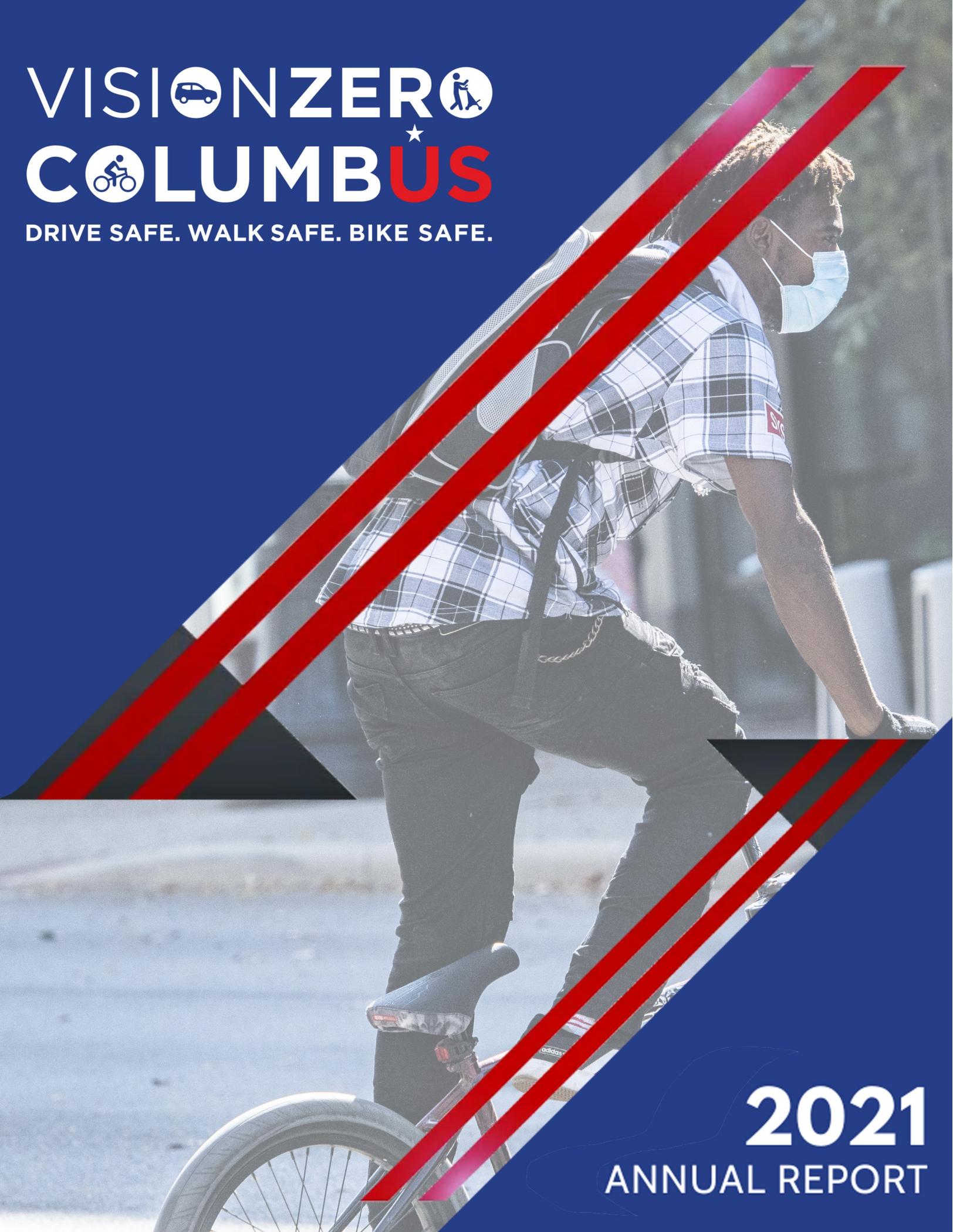
VISIONZERO



COLUMBUS



DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.



2021  
ANNUAL REPORT



## A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR JENNIFER GALLAGHER



One year into our first Vision Zero Columbus Action Plan, I am pleased to report that progress is being made to prioritize safety above all else on our city transportation system. But traffic deaths in our community continue to rise. Much work remains to achieve our goal of ZERO crash deaths and serious injuries.

Vision Zero Columbus and our partners are firmly committed to implementing the strategies in our two-year Action Plan. Our holistic, data-driven approach is guiding us to make streets safer and promote a culture of safety.

In this report, you will see accomplishments and progress made on Action Plan strategies in Year 1. Our efforts will be just as purposeful in Year 2, and as the plan is updated with new strategies.

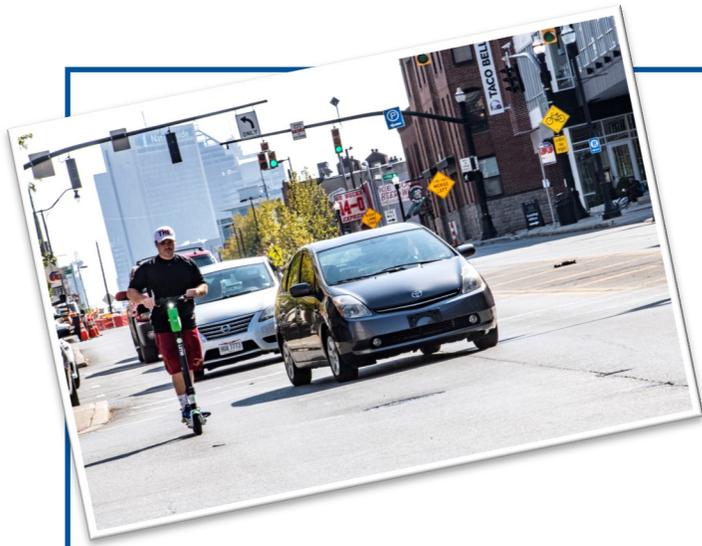
We must reverse the trend of rising crash deaths. Vision Zero wants to ensure the safety of all who use our city streets, no matter how they travel around the city. Any loss of life is unacceptable.

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE

VISION ZERO  
**COLUMBUS**  
DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.





## **Initial 2021 data shows that fatal crashes have increased not only in Columbus, but also statewide and nationally.**

Subject matter experts, including the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, cite pandemic-related factors such as higher speeds due to less congestion, more impaired and extreme driving, reduced seatbelt usage, and reduced available enforcement are drivers of the increasing fatal crashes

Vision Zero Columbus receives verified crash reports annually from the Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Department of Safety. This data is received several months after the year ends. For example, 2020 final crash report data was available in June 2021. However, Vision Zero Columbus proactively gathers crash report data weekly for all fatal crashes on Columbus streets. As a result, Vision Zero Columbus has preliminary 2021 fatal crash statistics.

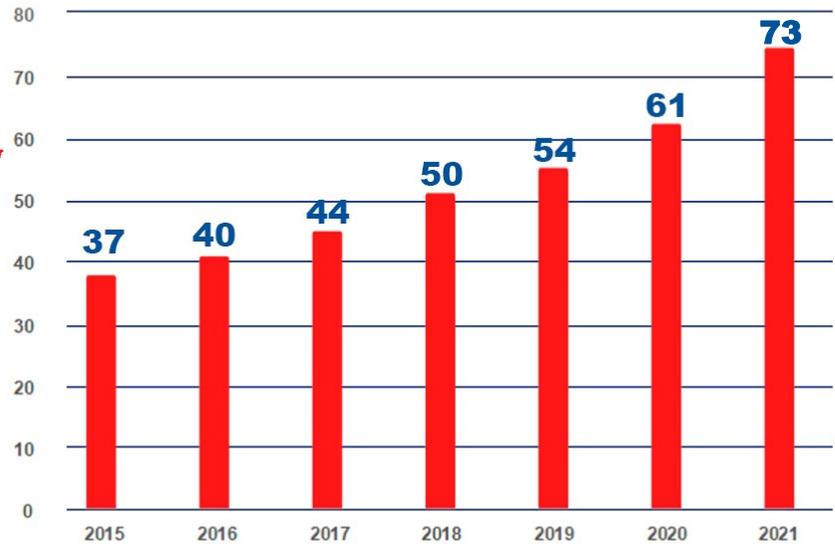
In reading this report, it is worth noting that some of these statistics will show values pertaining to the number of crashes, while others will show the number of people impacted in the crashes. This is because in a crash more than one fatality has occurred.

In 2020, 61 people were killed in 58 crashes on Columbus streets. In 2021, at least 73 people were killed in 72 crashes — a 14% increase in the number of people killed, and a 22% increase in the number of fatal crashes. In prior recent years, the number of people killed in Columbus crashes increased by 10% annually.

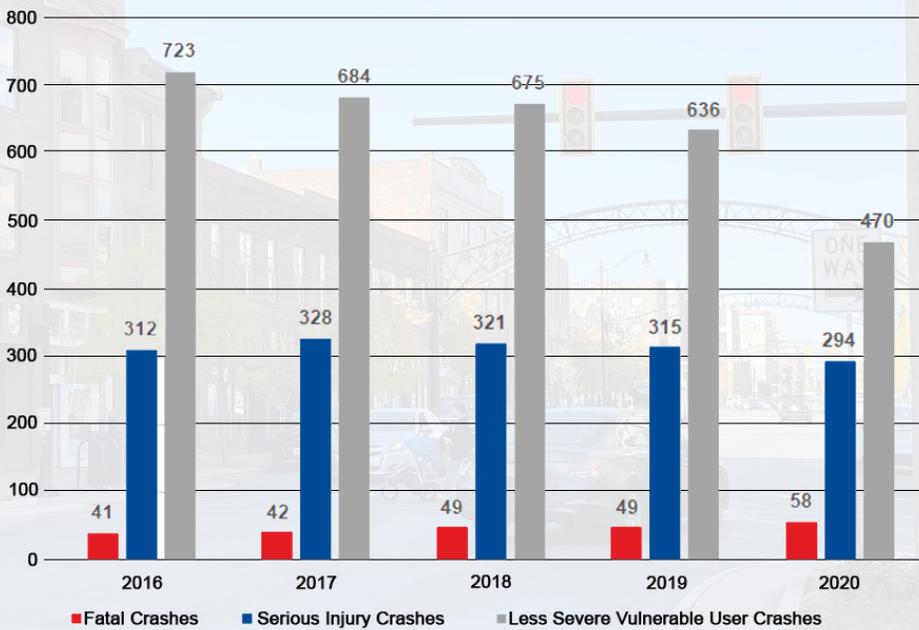
**THE NEED IS GREATER THAN EVER FOR VISION ZERO COLUMBUS** We must change our approach to transportation safety to focus on decreasing speeds and protecting Vulnerable Road Users — pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcyclists who are inherently more at risk of Injury.

# NUMBER OF TRAFFIC DEATHS IN COLUMBUS

**THE MOST SOBERING NEWS:**  
The number of people killed on Columbus streets has nearly DOUBLED SINCE 2015:



# NUMBER OF CRASHES BY SEVERITY



There were 294 Serious Injury crashes in 2020, a

**7%** DECREASE COMPARED TO 2019



**One-third of the people killed in crashes in 2021 were walking** — 24 pedestrians. It was the highest number of pedestrian crash deaths in recent years.

# PEOPLE KILLED BY MODE (2017-2021)



**3 bicyclists and 13 motorcyclists were killed in crashes in 2021**

— both record high numbers for Columbus.

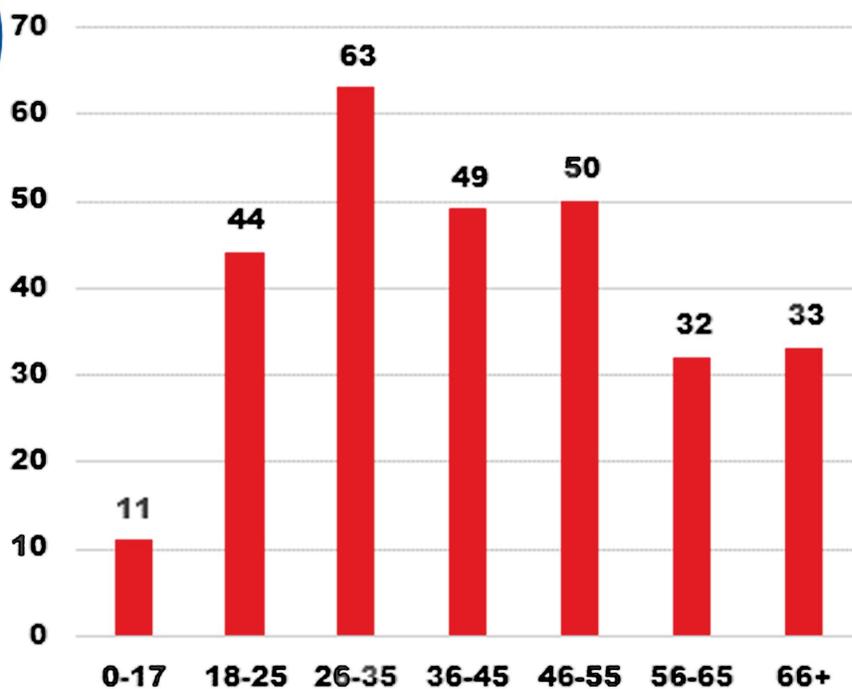
While 2021 was exceptionally dangerous, the trend has been consistent for Vulnerable Road Users.



**In the five-year period from 2017-2021, more than half of the people killed in crashes were not traveling inside a vehicle.**

**Eleven children (ages 17 and under) were killed and, in general, adults ages 35 and under were most often killed in traffic crashes.**

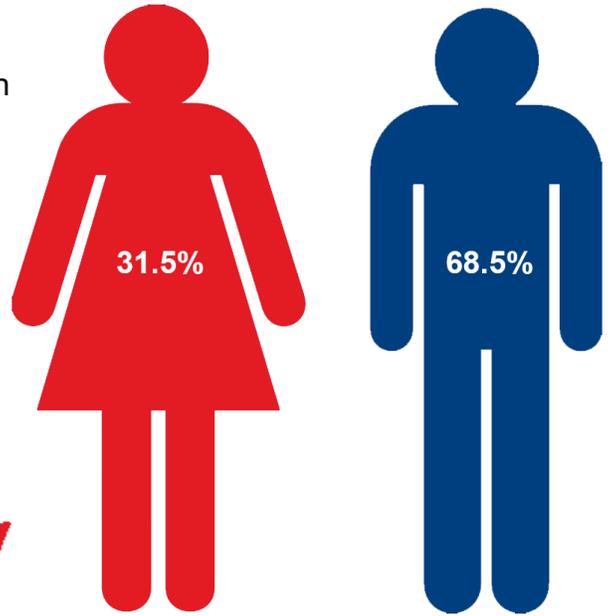
*Keep in mind, these were the victims of the traffic crashes, not necessarily the person driving the vehicle*



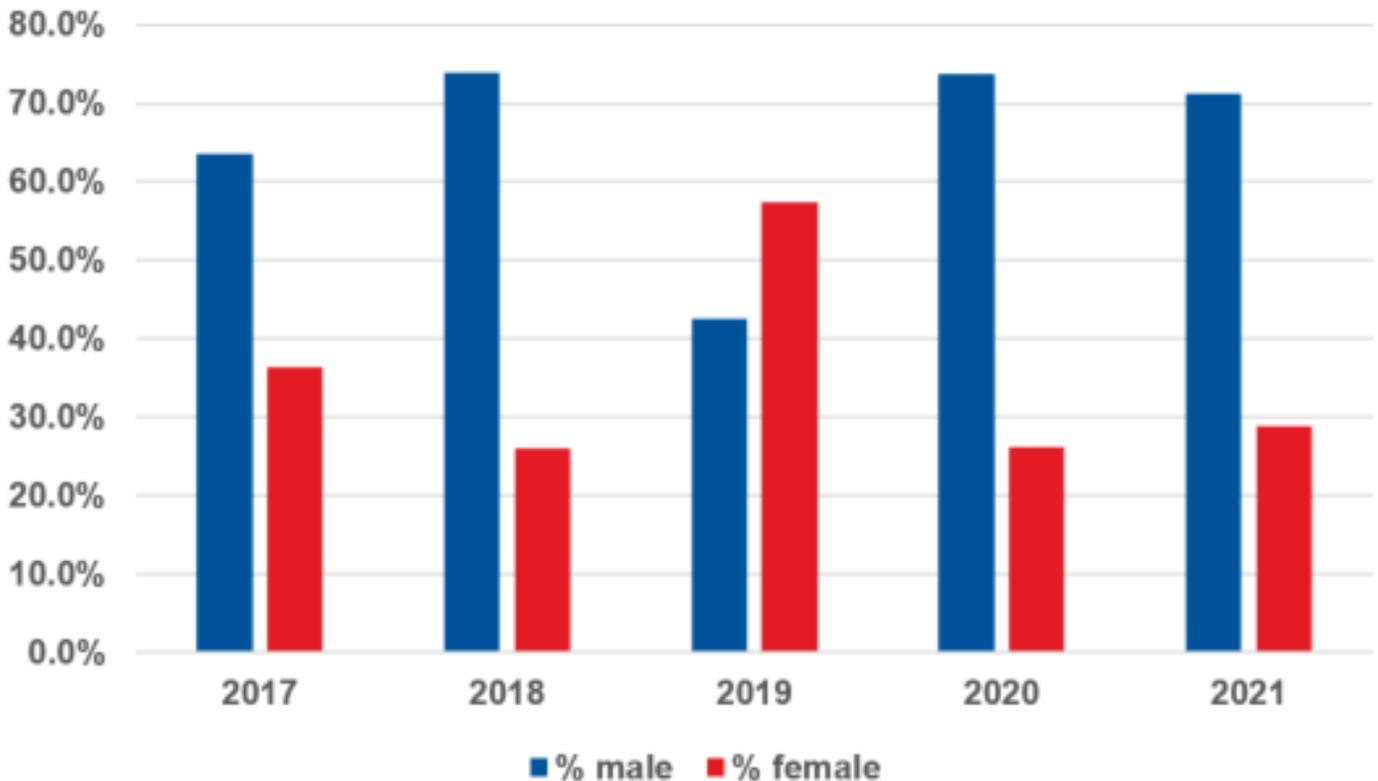
## MALES/FEMALES KILLED IN TRAFFIC CRASHES (2017-2021)

Vision Zero Columbus noted an anomaly in 2019, when there was a significant increase in females killed in crashes compared to other years.

**Females accounted for 58% of crash deaths in 2019, compared to 42% of males killed in crashes.**



For the past five years, **MALES COMPRISED 68.5% OF CRASH DEATHS.**



# LIVES ABOVE ALL ELSE

The City of Columbus and our Vision Zero partners are moving forward with our initial two-year Vision Zero Action Plan 1.0, adopted in March 2021. All Action Plan Strategies are well underway to prioritize safety for all users of our city's transportation system.

## Highlights include:

- Installing or upgrading 136 crosswalks, exceeding the first Action Plan goal by more than double.
- Making safety improvements at 20 intersections, exceeding the initial goal.
- Converting all traffic signals previously on night flash operation to fully operational.
- Evaluating 69 fatal crash sites for potential short-term improvements.
- Updating the state of Ohio speed zone study process.
- Publishing the revised COTA transit stop design guide to include Vision Zero principles and considerations.
- Evaluating 121 locations for safe sight distance needs.
- Converting 27 residential streets from one-way to two-way traffic to encourage slower speeds.
- Advocating for passage of Ohio House Bill 283 to require hands-free electronic communication while driving.
- Developing a communications campaign and completing a baseline survey to understand Columbus residents' knowledge and perceptions of transportation safety and traffic laws.
- Making progress on new policies for crosswalk installation, sight distance requirements, and design manual standards for the City of Columbus.
- Spending \$6 million on Vision Zero infrastructure improvements.

## Much more work lies ahead in 2022, as we evaluate and design safety improvements for multimodal travel along corridors that are on our city's High Injury Network such as:

- Livingston Avenue and Indianola Avenue pilot programs will evaluate new speed-reducing products.
- Virtual Traffic Court for motorists cited for traffic offenses who can prove financial hardship.
- Columbus City Schools is working to implement annual transportation safety curricula for all students beginning in the 2022-23 school year.

## COMPLETED TASKS



**Vision Zero Columbus is determined** to fully implement our first Action Plan by March of 2023.

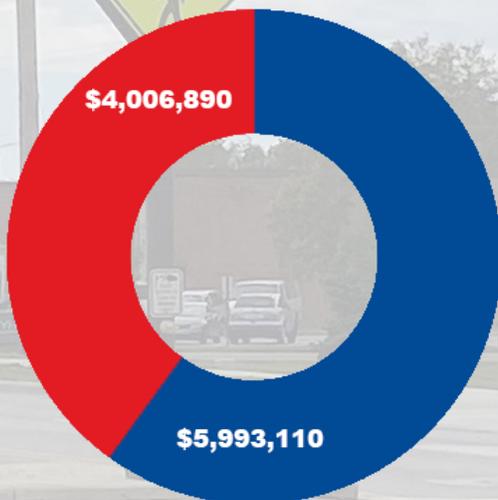
All of our strategies have been initiated, many of which are well underway or substantially completed.

2021	
Intersections Evaluated For Sight Distance	121
Rapid Response Team Field Reviews	69
Traffic Signals Converted From Night Flash	20
Slow Streets Implemented	27

**136** Crosswalks Installed/Upgraded

**20** Intersections Improved

FUNDS SPENT OF \$10 MILLION GOAL



- Dollars Invested
- Dollars Remaining

**THIS IS JUST THE START OF THE VISION ZERO COLUMBUS MOVEMENT.**

As we implement these strategies, we will continue to evaluate efforts that prove to be most beneficial in reaching our goal of ZERO crash deaths and serious injuries on Columbus streets.

# VISION ZERO

# COLUMBUS

DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.

Vision Zero Columbus is even more important as the region prepares to expand by 1 million people by 2050. We must take the initiative now to flatten the curve of fatalities and serious injuries and ultimately bend it downward to realize Vision Zero.

The City of Columbus is committed to ending traffic violence and making it possible for residents to drive safe, walk safe, and bike safe when getting to and through our neighborhoods.

Vision Zero Columbus will not achieve our goals without the commitment of residents, businesses, and institutions to eliminate life-altering crashes. This can only be accomplished with your support.

Beginning with a tweak of the language we use — saying CRASH instead of accident — is one simple step toward shifting to a culture focused on transportation safety. “Accident” implies the collision couldn’t be avoided and diminishes accountability of the vehicular violence. And of course, each of us

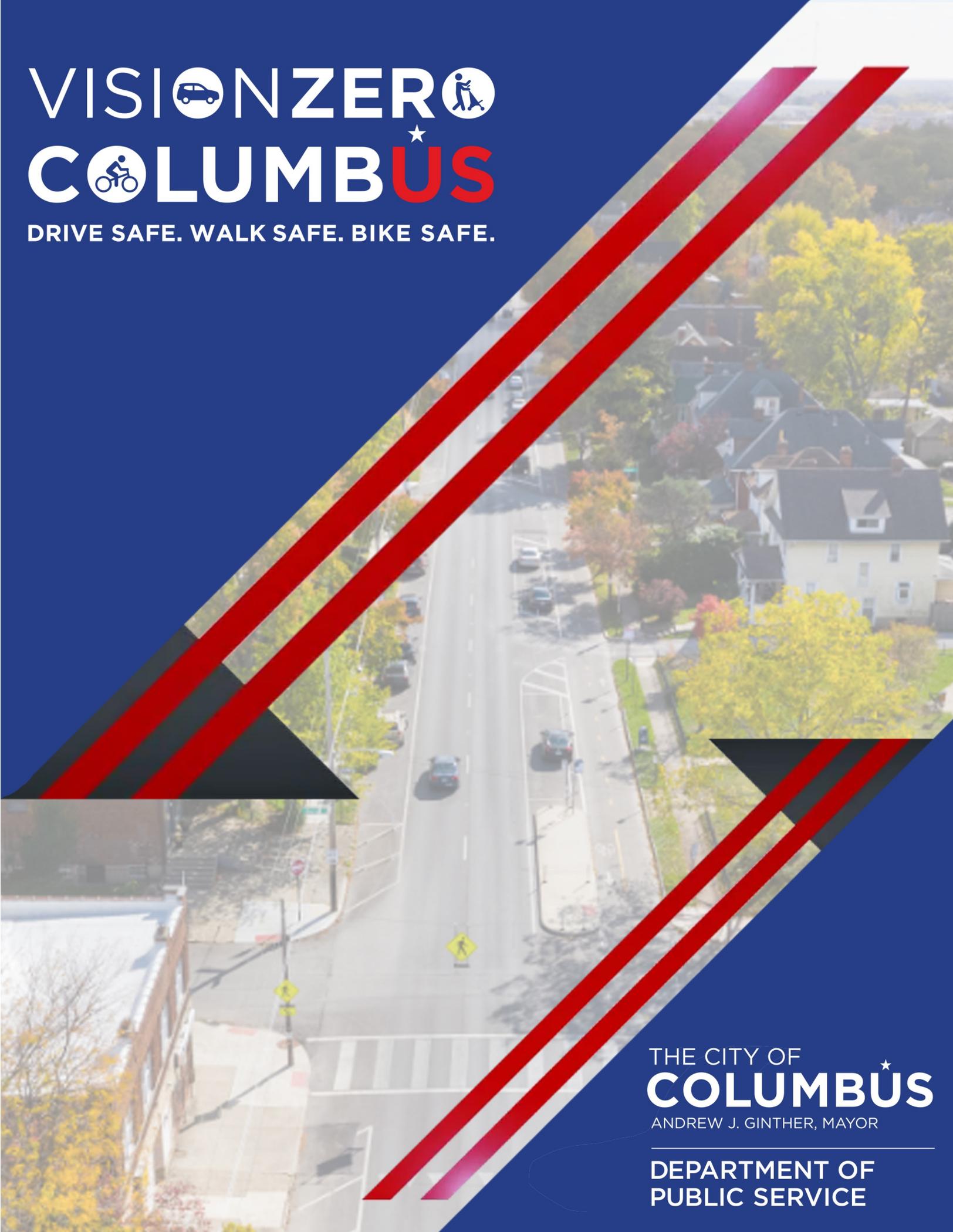
**Visit our website at [columbus.gov/VisionZero](http://columbus.gov/VisionZero) and join the Vision Zero Columbus movement. Play a part in helping our community achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.**



VISIONZERO  

C  LUMBUS

DRIVE SAFE. WALK SAFE. BIKE SAFE.



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SERVICE